

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EEC
SUBJ: COMMISSION'S 1978/79 FARM PRICE PACKAGE

REF: (A) EC A-10, (B) 77 BRUSSELS 17856, (C) BRUSSELS
2937

1. A WORKING LEVEL OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE COMMISSION PRICE PACKAGE (REF. A) INFORMED US
THAT THE COMMISSION WILL SHORTLY INTRODUCE A NUMBER OF
NEW PROPOSALS INTO THE 1978/79 PRICE NEGOTIATIONS.
THESE PROPOSALS ARE NOW BEING CLEARED INTERNALLY IN
THE COMMISSION. THEY WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE CHEFS
DE CABINET AT THE END OF THIS WEEK AND WILL GO BEFORE
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THE COMMISSIONERS NEXT WEDNESDAY. THEY ARE EXPECTED
TO BE READY FOR SUBMISSION TO THE COUNCIL PRIOR TO THE
MARCH 6-7 MEETING. THE COMMISSION ANNOUNCED ITS INTEN-
TION TO SUBMIT NEW PROPOSALS FOR CERTAIN PRODUCTS AT
THE FEBRUARY 13-14 COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS
(REF. C).

2. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE NEW PROPOSALS, WHICH ARE BEING REFERRED TO IN THE COMMISSION AS "VOLUME III" TO THE PRICE PACKAGE, WILL INCLUDE: THE SUSPENSION OF INTERVENTION FOR NFDM DURING CERTAIN PERIODS OF THE YEAR, IMPROVEMENTS IN AND EXPANSION OF EC SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS, RETENTION OF THE VARIABLE PREMIUM FOR BEEF, AND SOME SPECIAL MEASURES FOR STARCHES WHICH WOULD PRIMARILY BENEFIT THE DUTCH. "VOLUME III" WILL CONTAIN ABOUT 12 DRAFT REGULATIONS.

3. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THIS GROUP OF PROPOSALS HAS BEEN BROUGHT IN NOW TO MEET CERTAIN SPECIFIC MEMBER STATES' REQUESTS OR NEEDS WHICH HAVE COME TO LIGHT IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE PRICE PACKAGE. (THIS IS IN LINE WITH GUNDELACH'S SINGULAR APPROACH TO THE PRICE NEGOTIATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN REF. B.) WHILE THE PROPOSAL FOR SUSPENSION OF INTERVENTION OF NFDM HAS NOT BEEN REQUESTED BY ANY MEMBER STATE, IT COULD BE USED TO REPLACE THE CORESPONSIBILITY TAX, WHICH IS VERY UNPOPULAR WITH SEVERAL MEMBER STATES. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT GUNDELACH DOES NOT LIKE THE CORESPONSIBILITY TAX MECHANISM AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE IT UP FOR CONCESSIONS IN OTHER AREAS. SUSPENSION OF INTERVENTION FOR NFDM WOULD, HE FELT, BE A MORE USEFUL TOOL SINCE, ONCE THE BASIC REGULATION IS ADOPTED, IT COULD BE INSTITUTED BY THE COMMISSION WITHOUT COUNCIL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPROVAL--UNLIKE THE CORESPONSIBILITY LEVY. IT MIGHT BE THAT THE CORESPONSIBILITY TAX WOULD BE ALLOWED TO FALL INTO DISUSE RATHER THAN ACTUALLY BE WITHDRAWN. FOR EXAMPLE, IT COULD BE SET AT ZERO IN THE FORTHCOMING YEAR.

4. THE OFFICIAL THOUGHT THAT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE WOULD BE ANGERED BY GUNDELACH'S TACTIC IN WAITING SO LATE TO INTRODUCE A PART OF THE PRICE PACKAGE. HINTON

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